

Virginia Air Board
c/o Terry Darton
Air Permit Manager
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Dear Air Board-

The Potomac River Generation Station has been around for many years supplying electricity to more than 14 states, including parts of Virginia. Because this plant is close to an airport, the stacks on the power station reach to a height of only 165 feet, which is rather short compared to other power plant stacks. Mirant acquired this plant in 2001, and they have spent millions of dollars upgrading the plant to produce cleaner air for the citizens of Alexandria. I have lived here for 17 years and really enjoy the quality of life in this city.

The City Council wants to shut down the plant because they feel the plant has not taken responsibility to protect the environment and air. Mirant has proposed a new upgrade that would cost \$30 million and would ensure better quality of air and protect the environment as well. The new proposal is called a stack merge. This would allow emissions to shoot higher into the atmosphere, thus causing fewer toxins in the air to breathe. Because the City Council continues to relentlessly argue about the case, they have caused many tax dollars to be wasted that should have been put to better use on serving the community. I fully support the stack merge to bring better air quality for the people of Alexandria. It is mind boggling that many people of Alexandria sit back and are not concerned with the waste of tax dollars.

I am only one person, but I want my opinion to be heard. The Potomac River Generation Station has been a beneficial facility supplying power to many states and should continue to do so. Without this plant, possible blackouts may occur, and that would not be productive for anyone. Please take the time to review Mirant's proposal for the stack merge operation that would improve the quality of life for all citizens in Alexandria. I know I would like to have a better quality of life.

Thank you for your service,

Paul Benedict
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Paul Benedict
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